

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Staff Sergeant Jonathan R. Reed.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Jonathan R. Reed upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the death in ground combat of Staff Sergeant Jonathan R. Reed; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Reed was a native of Krotz Springs, and was a 1998 graduate of Port Barre High School where he distinguished himself with his athletic abilities as a member of the high school football and baseball teams and will be remembered by both coaches and students as a team player who went on to become a brave soldier who loved freedom; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Reed enlisted in the National Guard in 2000 in order to help finance his studies at the junior college in Eunice but was considering a career in the military flying helicopters; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Reed was a member of the United States Army National Guard's 1088<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 256<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team based in New Roads when his unit was deployed to Iraq in the fall of 2004; and

1           WHEREAS, while Staff Sergeant Reed loved Desi, his wife, Riley, his son, and  
2           Webster, his father, and other family members and friends and missed them dearly during  
3           his tour of duty in the Iraqi Theater of Operations, he also loved his country, displaying a  
4           total dedication to this nation at a time when enemies around the world have sworn to harm  
5           America and extinguish the bright light of freedom that America carries in a dark,  
6           dangerous, and threatening world; and

7           WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Reed's highest priority was accomplishing his unit's  
8           mission and getting the men under his command safely back home to their families and  
9           loved ones once their tour was complete and he accomplished these goals by way of his  
10          brave actions and uncommon valor; and

11          WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Reed was 25 years old when he was sent on patrol on  
12          January 28, 2005, through the mean streets and back alleys of Baghdad searching for  
13          terrorist elements report ed to be operating in the area and determined to create chaos and  
14          disarray in Iraq's struggling democracy; and

15          WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Reed and the men of his patrol were attacked by enemy  
16          forces who struck their position with an improvised explosive device and a hail of hostile  
17          fire, mortally wounding Staff Sergeant Reed and two of his fellow soldiers during the course  
18          of the ambush; and

19          WHEREAS, the loss of Staff Sergeant Reed and his men was almost more than his  
20          family and friends could endure, their ultimate sacrifice for their country made citizens from  
21          around Louisiana rally in support of the National Guard's gallant efforts in the war on terror  
22          and the liberation of Iraq; and

23          WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Reed will forever be remembered by his family, friends,  
24          and fellow soldiers as a truly dedicated leader and his sacrifice serves as a reminder that  
25          freedom is never free and Americans sometimes must fight to protect the precious freedoms  
26          and liberties its citizens now enjoy.

27          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
28          does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a  
29          grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army National Guard Staff Sergeant  
30          Jonathan R. Reed.

1            THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be  
2 transmitted to the wife, son, and father of Staff Sergeant Jonathan R. Reed.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Jonathan  
R. Reed.